Arms Reduction (START) signed in Moscow on the 31st July, 1991 which provides for the first ever reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Welcomes the conclusion of the Treaty and congratulates the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union on this accomplishment.

Express the Hope that there would be no interruption in the process of negotiations gor nuclear disarmament so that START is followed by even more far-reaching measures for nuclear arms reduction, not only between the United States and the Soviet Union but also including other nuclear weapon States.

Appeals for the earliest possible initiation of multilateral negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations for a new Treaty eliminating all nuclear and other weapons within a time bound framework.

Endorses the position of the Government of India on the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and calls upon the Government to pursue the various proposals and initiatives for ushering in a nuclear weapon free world."

I take it that the Resolution is approved.

The Resolution was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will adjourn now to meet again at 14.05 hrs. today.

13.03 HRS.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

14.13 HOURS

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*)

GENERAL BUDGET 1991-92—

GENERAL DISCUSSION—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up further discussion on the General Budget. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat was on his feet. He has already taken eleven minutes. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Shankar Bhagwan, please be kind.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, inspite of giving status of Industry to the agriculture nothing has been said about its development. Secondly no mention of simplification of Central Sales Tax, abolition of sales tax in states, stopping the oppression of shopkeepers has been made in this budget, due to which the shopkeepers, agriculturists, youths, hardworking people, housewives and all people feel depressed and have lost all hope.

Agra is considered a colony by the Central Government even now. Industries are closed down in Agra in the name of environment pollution and the restriction was imposed in 1983. Inspite of installation of pollution control instruments, permission for setting up of industry and its expansion is not being given. But no attempt has been made to check the pollution of Yamuna waters because of the excreta. The people of Agra are drinking the same polluted water. With the result the public health suffers a lot. Electronic and agricultural industry should be set up in the Private and public sector in Agra. In the State, maximum goods are exported from Agra, and as such an aircargo office should be set up in Agra.

In Agra the ancient carpet weaving Centres should also be developed alongwith memorials of Mughal period. The powerstations demolished in the name of pollution are causing a great scarcity of power in Agra. Sufficient electricity should be made available from the national grid. Sufficient civic facilities/amenities should be made available to Agra after including it in the National Capital Region, and it should be declared as an international tourist city. A civil airport should be constructed there. Agra should be brought on the rail and air map of India. Very recently, the Minister of Civil Aviation has approved certain new flights but

unfortunately he has forgotten Agra. Although, when he goes to Gwalior by train, Agra comes enroute but construction of an airport at Agra is out of his mind. Alongwith this the supply of drinking water, pucca approach roads and electricity facilities should be made available in all the villages of Agra. Headquarters of the Mobile Staff of Western Railway of Agra should be resumed.

I would like to dedicate a couplet of Jai Shankar Prasad's poem to the Finance Minister through you, on behalf of the sisters(women) of my country. By chance, the Finance Minister is not here, the lines are :

"Chhil-Chhil Kar Chhale Phode,
Mal Mal Kar Mridul Charan Se,

Dhul-Dhul Kar Ve Bah Jaate,
Bahte Karuna Ke Kan Se."

With these words I end my speech. I have tried to express the agony of the womenfolk through these lines.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Budget presented by the Finance Minister. I would like to draw his attention that the cut in the subsidy on fertilisers has caused a heavy burden on the agriculturists, because of which they will be facing big problems. I would say that it will lay a burden not only on agriculturists but all the same it will reduce agriculture production also. Honourable Minister is present here and I would like to inform him that if the agriculturist is producing 20 maunds of foodgrains from an acre of land, and without fertiliser he can hardly produce 10 maunds. With the result the production of agriculture in the country will go down. If the production will go down in the country, we shall have to buy it from other countries. So such a situation should not arise. I would like to draw your attentfon to one more point, that is, the agricultural labourers will also face a difficulty when the agriculturists won't give them proper wages, or no wages at all, thereby the unemployment will increase.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Janata Dal Government which was in power lately played a big conspiracy with the farmer. They told the farmers that their loans would be waived off and the innocent farmer came under its influence and took it for granted. Today, the agriculturist is facing a great difficulty, because on the rates of the fertilisers have gone up, and the difficulties caused by this and conditions and circumstances of an agriculturist can be understood by a person who is a small farmer or by his son only. At the time of crop he has to buy a bag of fertiliser for which he has got no money. He borrows money from banks. In this way, he has been misled by false promises made by the Janta Dal. I can say on this occasion as the hon. Agriculture Minister is sitting here. Instead of giving exemption to big farmers, it should be given to small and marginal farmers so that they can boost production in the country. I think if it is not done, the country would have to face insurmountable problems. In this country, seventy-eighty per cent families depend on agriculture. A common man can understand as to what are the problems he has to face. But the truth is that these leaders talk a lot outside but they hesitate to say anything here. I don't know why ? I come from Faridabad constituency which is nearer to Delhi. The area is dominated by backwards and the minorities. There is acute water shortage for farmers. If water is supplied to this area, I think there would be no need of fertilisers for common man.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Agra Canal that passes through my constituency but being a minority and backward dominated area, water is not supplied from that canal to the area. I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to pay attention to it. He is present in the House. Water from that Agra canal, which is under the charge of Uttar Pradesh, should be made available to Haryana State also to enable them to distribute water to farmers so that they do not sit idle. Besides, there is no water available for farming land and even the cattle and birds do not

get water in my area which is adjacent to Delhi. I am sorry to say that this backward area is known as a big industrial area in Delhi. I would like to mention in the House that a small part of it is an industrial area whereas major part is dominated by minorities. The people of that minority area have been ignored. There are no employment opportunities. Water is not available for irrigation. There is also scarcity of drinking water.

Through you, I would like to mention in the House that industries should be set up particularly in that minority and backward area for the purpose of development. Although the industries have been established and Mewat Development Board has also been set up, no progress has been made in the area so far. If Alwar is linked with Gurgaon or Palwal by a railway line, the transport facilities could be made available to this area and industries set up under the Mewat Development Board. If industries are set up there, people in my constituency, who are on the verge of starvation, would get employment. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to say that while Faridabad is a big industrial area, the area of Mewat has been ignored. I would like to ask as to what is the percentage of Government jobs in the minority and backward dominated area as compared to the Government jobs in Haryana State out of the total Government jobs in the country ? Today, my constituency is fully ignored.

I would like to mention here that the Government should pay attention to safeguard the interests of the backwards and minorities. This is my humble submission.

Sir, so far as industries are concerned, there is a big industrial area in my constituency. I want to say that industrial policy should be modified. Today, I can say without hesitation that the industrialists in the country have influence on the Government. Instead the Government should have influence on the industrialists. Today big industrialists don't bother to provide employment to local people. These unemployed youths should be provided employment. In the Faridabad area, no employment is provided. It seems that the Government have no influence on big industrialists. First of all, the industrialists should be directed to provide employment to the unemployed local people. Due to high prices of fertilizers, we would have difficulty in purchasing fertilizers. Any ordinary farmer cannot purchase it if price of a bag of fertilizers is so high. Mr. Chairman, Sir, subsidy on fertilizers should be restored at least for small farmers. This is my demand in the House. The present industrial policy and the execution of schemes of small scale industries have not ameliorated the lot of the unemployed nor have they brought about any change in small scale industries. I can say that no one can run a business with a meagre sum of rupees 30–35 thousand. No jobless person can run even a small industry with such a meagre amount. It is not possible. Therefore, more allocation under this head should be made. Until and unless big industrialists are checked, small industries cannot flourish in the country because big industrialists have a monopoly. We wish small industries to flourish so that the unemployed youth of the country could get the employment opportunities and there should be maximum budget allocation for this purpose.

I think if small scale fertiliser industries are set up in the country, farmers can get fertilisers easily which would be much helpful to their farming activities. Through you. I demand from the Government that maximum funds should be allocated in this Budget for the welfare of farmers. Necessary funds should also be allocated in the Budget for getting water from Agra Canal which passes through my constituency. In my backward and minority predominant constituency, if Gurgaon or Palwal is linked with Alwar by rail line, a big problem of that area could be solved. On this occasion, I would like to point out that there is acute shortage of water in Gurgaon canal in my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Bhadanaji, please conclude now.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Sir, I get a chance rarely to express my views.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will continue to get chances.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : When you have been kind enough in giving me a chance, please let me speak now. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if persons like you, who are well aware of the sufferings of backwards and minorities, stop me from saying something, I would only say that I am failing in my duty to safeguard the interests of the people who have sent me here with the hope that I would fight for their interests in the House. If I am stopped from putting their views in the House, how would I be able to discharge my duty in the House ? There are unemployed people in large number throughout the country. On the one hand, the Government—Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said that they would provide jobs to the unemployed and on the other hand, our Finance Minister has put a ban on recruitment. By doing so, we would have to face difficulties in following their footprints and making realise his dreams. Now, unemployed people have come out on the roads. We have to frame a new policy on employment so that they could get job. If we succeed in containing unemployment we would certainly be able to tackle the problems confronting us easily. Today, extremists in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Punjab are flourishing. A beginning is also being made in Uttar Pradesh. When a youth goes astray owing to unemployment, he follows the path of extremism. If we are able to provide employment opportunities to those educated unemployed, they would not join the forces that want to misguide them, that want to keep them away from the mainstream. We can bring them back to national mainstream by providing them employment. Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab are its examples. The way the sentiments of the educated unemployed of Jammu and Kashmir have been played with the way atrocities have been committed, whatever be the forms of atrocities, but when they have suffered atrocities, such circumstances have arisen only after the atrocities. No one can deny this fact. I hope that Government would look into it. With these words, I express my gratitude.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Budget. I have listened patiently to the speeches delivered by leaders from both the sides of the House. There was not only criticism but also praise for the Budget. Even the print-media have not outrightly rejected the Budget. Now they are sore over the price hike in the cost of newsprint. I request the Central Government to find a way out and this should not burden the small and medium newspapers. In fact, they are working as the backbone of Indian democracy.

Mr. Chairman Sir, every successive Budget, whether it is brought forward by one party or the other party which is ruling the country, has become a sort of routine one that is always inflationary. And after every Budget, prices go high. Sir, I am not an economist and I do not have a sound knowledge of the compulsions of the Government. I do not know the political management of economic reforms of the Government. But as a mother, a woman and a housewife, I know the suffering of the women. They have to cope up with escalating prices right from LPG to other commodities of daily necessity. Sir, we can imagine the anguish of a mother who has to cut down nutritious food to her children, not to speak of nutritious food, she has to adjust with the Budget just to provided her children even *dal bhath*, as she knows fully well that her children are already suffering from malnutrition. Whether we agree or not, it is the poor people who are always hit maximum by price rise. We may jumble with words to our satisfaction but this will never help the poor.

Sir, due to withdrawal of fertiliser subsidy, the farmers will suffer and as our friends from the other side said, this will cause low production also. The Government has already promised procurement of agricultural products at a high price. This will lead to another price rise because after procuring the agriculturural products at a high price, Government is not certainly going to sell at a low price to the people.

The working class of the country who toil hard to enrich this country are still a neglected lot. Even after 44 years of Independence, we have not been able to do justice to this lot and there is no dignity of labour in our country. I request the Government to take care of them and give them their due share.

The hill areas of the country are important not only for security reasons but also for their scenical beauty. Only if the Government provides proper infrastructure to these areas, we can attract millions of foreign tourists so that we can earn foreign exchange. Hills are also rich in mineral resources which are required for the economic development of the country. Rivers which flow from these areas have always made the country fertile and have great potential of hydel power. Hydel power is renewable, cheap and most important commercial source of electric power in India. More than 80 per cent of hydel potential power of the country remains unharnessed. Mini and micro units can be established by taking advantage of mountain streams and canals and we can decentrailse economically viable power units to the rural and remote areas. By this, States like Sikkim can earn revenue from such small units. The hill areas are neglected due to different reasons. It may be because of different geological, historical and political reasons. These areas are yet to come into the economic mainstream of the country. The other reason of this plight of the hilly region is that the lukewarm attitude of the Central Government towards such areas.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, but he is not present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of State, Shri Dalbir Singh is here.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether knowingly they want to keep these areas under-developed. If so, why ? If not, why are these areas still underdeveloped even after 44 years of Independence ? Sikkim is one of the hill States. The Union Government is well aware that this is the only State which is not linked by air or rail. The Government of Sikkim and its people have been demanding that their State should be linked by air or by rail. But this request has not been conceded yet. I hope the Government will have sympathetic consideration for this State, which has joined mainstream only in 1975 and is backward in all respects.

Sikkim will have to bear the maximum cumulative effect of the price rise in petroleum products such as petrol and diesel because Sikkim has to depend totally on other States even for essential commodities and there is no other mode of transport except road transport I would request the Government to keep in mind these facts while allocating funds to the State.

Tea industry is one of those industries which earn a lot of foreign exchange. Sikkim produces very good quality tea and it is getting very good price also. I would like to request the Government to come to the help of the State Government to encourage and expand this industry. This industry is not only a foreign exchange earner, but labour intensive also and it will also help to solve the problem of rural unemployment.

Sir, Sikkim has been declared an industrially backward State by the Central Government. But by merely declaring a State as industrially backward does not help. I would request the Central Government to help the State Government in developing proper and suitable infrastructural facilities and in removing the regional imbalances that we are suffering from.

The Finance Minister has also mentioned in his Budget Speech about unearthing black money. Here I would like to mention just one point. Whenever, we talk about black money, every citizen in this country says that black money generates from the politicians themselves. Whether we agree or not; it is said that those people who are accumulating black money, do get the patronate of the politicians. So, to remove this menace, why cannot we start to take action ? We all know the saying : "Charity begins at home." Why cannot

we, the elected representatives from Parliament can bring out a Bill making it mandatory that after being elected to any office, one has to declare his or her assets. This will, in my sincere opinion, reduce black money. This should apply not only to Members of Parliament but to all those who hold public office. They also should declare their assets.

With these words, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum) : Sir, this year's Budget is a peculiar one because of the conditions of political instability, uncertainty and un-productive time. So, under the circumstances the present Finance Minister has done a lot of justice to the Budget.

Every year the deficit is growing. This is the main feature of our Budget and aspecially of the underdeveloped countries because whatever profit is earned in the previous year is spent on the developmental work and thus no capital is built up. Deficit is thus bound to be there in the Budget when there is no capital built up. I would say that the circumstances which are man made, which lead to deficit financing should be cut off. Black money, smuggling and corruption are some of the things which we should reduce to minimum. Unless we reduce these ill practices we cannot have a stable, healthy financial position.

For all these days, our friends in the Opposition have criticised the Government heavily. But, if you take from the beginning of the Five Year Plans and the assets created in this country, you will definitely be convinced that we have progressed a lot. However, there is a black side of the picture also where the Government can be criticised. But there should be a constructive criticism only at the times when Government goes off the track or it misses the line.

Now, I will come to the agriculture, that is to the *Kissan's* problems The agricultural production has risen from 50 million tonnes in 1952 to 170 million tonnes today. Even then nobody has complimented the *Kissans* for it and on the contrary they are all against them and say that the subsidy which is being given to them should be taken away. There are a number of public sector units which are losing heavily but still we are helping them and complimenting them and on the other hand there are kissans who have really done some progressive work you want that the subsidy which is being given to them should be taken away.

The Finance Minister in his Statement said that this cut in subsidy will be componsated by remunerative levy price. Sir, through you, may I tell the Finance Minister that the levy is procured only from the rich farmers. If rich farmer does not sell hundred per cent of the goods produced to the Government and gives only a part of it then he will be benefited only to that extent. So far as poor farmers are concerned they may not get any benefit out of it. So, this is not a correct proposal to help the farmers. It is only an eye wash. Perhaps the Finance Minister does not know the background of the farmers; how they are being harassed.

Nowadays we are talking about the land reforms. I would say that the land reforms of today are different from the land reforms of 20 years back. The Land Ceiling Act cannot be implemented effectively and there is a lot of delay. Child born then is an adult now. We may give them land but when land is fragmented it will hamper the production because in the small farms you cannot employ machines and without mechanisation farming is totally unproductive. Therefore, we should get out of this condition and adopt mechanised farming. If we do not mechanise agriculture totally, then we will be facing a very bad time in future. Of late, the Government is producing small tractors for which they deserve our compliments. The cost of inputs required for sprinkler irrigation and dip irrigation had been increased day by day. The purchasing capacity of farmers is also day by day decreasing and the cost of materials or the inputs that they want for their land is also increasing day by day. Because of this, they are put to loss.

In addition to that, the help that you had extended by giving them subsidy, perhaps that also you are going to take away. That is not going to help them. In one of the statements, the Finance Minister had said that they are going to create a just society by doing injustice to the big chunk of this country who have been toiling, who are illiterate, who are ignorant about their rights and who have not seen the light of the day and who are harassed. For that they should be complimented. So, they should be helped. How could they be helped ? My proposal is that they should be given facility for sprinkler irrigation, drip irrigation and other things. They should be given loan without charging any interest from them. Otherwise, the loans that we are giving them through the Nationalised Banks, there the interest is being accumulated. The son is becoming taller than his father and the interest is growing more than the capital. After that, agitation will be there for waiver of loans. Any Government will come forward and waive the loans. By that, we are spending every year, Rs. 15,000 crores or something like that by way of waiving of loans. I am not against it. But, how long the Government can afford to give money without recovering it from them? This is not a happy affair. This should be curbed. There should be a proper management. In addition to this, we are giving so many other things for the development of agriculture. But our farmers are not educated scientifically rather they are uneducated. Today's agriculture requires, on the farm, highly educated scientists but instead of that, we are putting ignorant persons. An ignorant person cannot have a scientific knowledge and without scientific knowledge, farming is unproductive.

So, in the agricultural sector, we have to have educated farmers. The farmers should be educated. We have 150 educational institutions—Universities for 15 per cent population who are living in urban areas and we have hardly 22 agricultural colleges for the rest 75 per cent of the population. These are really widening the gap between the rural and urban population.

The Finance Minister had also made a statement that he was born in a village. I do not know. Most of the time, he must be there in urban area. He was an IAS officer. He may not be knowing the hard life of the villagers. How they are suffering ? And how the gap is increasing between the rural people and the urban people ? The urban people are getting good education. Most of the urbanites are getting into IAS or white collared jobs whereas the people from a rural area does not even pass the matriculation. Because of this, they cannot get a good job. Because of increase in population, the lands are being divided. *Per capita* income is comparatively lessening and he is not able to maintain his standard also.

If you train a man for allied professions like Dairy farming, poultry farming, sericulture and bee-keeping, then it would be very useful .

These are the fields in which all teenaged girls and boys and old parents could be engaged in productive lines, which we have failed to do all these days. Every inch of land should be exploited; that is not being done.

Most of the people in the villages depend on agriculture. They become unemployed during a certain period in a year; that is a burden on agriculture. We are not even prepared to take them off from agriculture and employ them somewhere else. That has to be done.

Our industries were working satisfactorily 15—20 years ago. Today, when we see the public sector, we find how much heavy losses they are incurring every year; hardly 10 per cent of them are just working hand to mouth. Now, it is time for privatisation. Privatisation might be bad in a capitalistic country; there that is also a danger to a greater extent. But in between that, the concept of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was to make the public and ordinary citizens of this country to have a partnership in the progress of this country and take technical knowhow from the public sector, which has already been turned off. I am not against the public sector, but public sector is against

us because of its economy. Therefore, privatisation has to be done in a competitive line.

Corruption and black money are hand in hand. I donot know how far our Finance Minister is serious about these things, because it has been mentioned regularly in every Budget we read that casual attention has been paid to these things. Mr. D. H. Lawrence and Mr. Harold Lasky had stated that corruption cannot be rooted out, but it could be reduced. At least an attempt of its reduction should be made very seriously this time. I congratulate the Finance Ministry that they are equally bold to take any action. With great concern we are bringing this thing to his notice. For all other things he is O.K. Though corruption cannot be rooted out, at least he can reduce it. Otherwise, this inflation and unorganised money thrown in the country are hitting the poor man. A rupee or two rupees or ten rupees have lost their real value, may be that devaluation must have helped him, but it may not give immediately relief to the common man.

If he withdraws subsidy on agriculture, then the people in our constituencies will not be happy with us. Even the Opposition Members agree with that. I think he will be kind enough to help the kisans.

I think petrol was a luxury previously; now it is not a luxury at all; and 90 per cent of the petrol is being consumed by the villagers and even milk men in going to the farms, those who are driving two-wheelers; I am not talking about the four-wheelers. I am bringing only to his notice how best he con do; I don't think he can do anything. However, I am appealing to him to do something about it because small people are also hit hard.

Smuggling has been regularized or nationalised, I do not know. It is very surprising and shocking. These fellows walk openly and they are very much apparent. Even in the *Illustrated Weekly* the whole details are given how much money they have made, how many people they have killed.

All these stories appeared in the Press, and smuggling has not been curbed. Why? What is the difficulty of the Government? It is very much alarming. In this country smuggling should be totally curbed; it should be discouraged. I hope our Finance Minister is very serious about all these things.

Lastly, I congratulate him for the provision he has made for housing and all other things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up. Your meeting is about to start

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : About housing schemes, black money should have been diverted for it or at least 50 per cent could have been diverted for investment in agriculture, instead of for housing. I suggest that slum areas should be developed. When we do not develop the villages, naturally the slums grow in cities like Bombay and Delhi and spending thousands of crores of rupees will not do any good. The slums cannot be stopped because the villages are not developed. Now our young men go to cities as they think that they can get Rs. 50/- by polishing shoes there rather than get Rs. 10/- in the villages. That is the tendency these days.

There is no economic activity in the rural areas. All economic activity should be diverted to the villages. We have left Mahatama Gandhi's concept and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's concept. We have forgotten them. We never implemented them. We Indians are very good at giving speeches, but not at implementation.

The hon. Finance Minister has spoken about restructuring of economy. It sounds to me as very beautiful language. But that should also be practised. I think we are very lucky to have such a Finance Minister, because he is an expert in so many fields and he is above board. I am not praising; I am only appreciating. We request him to help in all the ways he can.

Now I come to employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I thought that, that was the last point. Leave some to our friends on this side also.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Lastly, only one more point. Employment is one of the problems in this country which is related to population. And population we have never seriously taken all these days. Only Sanjay Gandhi was serious. Subsequently, we have become timid in the implementation of Family Planning programmes. Why should we be timid, I do not know. It should be made compulsory and it should be implemented. Whatever the Government considers fit should be done in this matter.

Then, coming to drinking water, there is no water in the ground, where ground water used to be available. Many people may not be knowing that in our parts heavy rains are expected every year but this year we had only limited rainfall. We are not getting water. Water should be diverted from rivers to make drinking water available. The State Governments should be asked to prepare master plans to provide drinking water to drought-affected and rain-starved areas. Otherwise, it will be very difficult.

Lastly, much has been spoken about the Rajiv Gandhi Trust. I think, I can request the Prime Minister to withdraw it. We can collect thousands of crores through our Party efforts. Why should we malign the national and international fame of Shri Rajiv Gandhi for this ? It is insulting to the big Nehru family, to which he belonged. I understand that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has been approached with clear intentions.

AN HON. MEMBER : Has she been approached ?

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Giving Rs. 20 crores every year is not enough. We can raise the money because we have got lot of friends in our party and also from the public. Thank you very much for giving me the time.

14.59 Hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

FUNDS EARMARKED FOR RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION IN THE GENERAL BUDGET 1991-92

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): This issue of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has been raised by many Hon. Members.

I have to inform the House that the Government have received a letter dated 31st July, 1991, from the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. The Foundation has thanked the Government for its intention to donate a generous sum to the Foundation. However, the foundation has suggested in its letter that the best way to carry out this intention is for the Government to identify suitable projects and programmes and fund them directly and implement them under its own supervision.

15.00 Hrs.

The Government have accepted the view expressed by the Foundation. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 100 crores proposed in this year's Budget, to be given over a period of five years, will not be donated to the Foundation. However, the Government will identify suitable projects and programmes. These projects will be named after Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Government will spend such sums as are necessary to carry out these projects and programmes. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very casual way of dealing with the Budget. We are discussing the Budget of the country and the discussion is going on. The Government cannot take this kind of a most casual approach to allot the money of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and then withdraw it. From this, it appears, as if the Foundation is the master of the Budget of this country. The moment a letter comes from the Foundation the Finance Minister comes before the House and makes a statement. I do not know whether he is speaking on behalf of Cabinet. Also I do not know whether the Government had an opportunity to discuss it or not. This is not the way to deal with the Parliament of this country, which is the master of running the financial affairs of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have expressed your point.